

MCLEOD COOPERATIVE POWER NEWS

JULY 2021



NEW PAYMENT OPTIONS AND EASY ONLINE ACCOUNT ACCESS LAUNCHING JULY 12

On July 12, McLeod Co-op Power is launching three new payment options for members. The goal is make it more convenient for members to pay their bills.

1. Secure Credit Card Payments by Phone
Payments made over the phone will now go through an automated phone service for enhanced security.

2. One Time Online Payments with PayNow
Members that want to make a quick, one time payment without logging into SmartHub will now have that option on the Cooperative's website.

3. Online and Mobile SmartHub Application
SmartHub – an optional online service that offers members a faster, more efficient way to pay their bills and manage account information from either a computer or mobile device, including smartphones and tablets. The SmartHub app is free (available for both Apple/iOS and Android mobile devices) to download and install, and is powered by the National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC), which developed and services the program.

Register for SmartHub

After we launch on July 12th, you'll need to register online as a new user through

SmartHub. Full registration instructions will be available on our website: www.mcleodcoop.com. You'll also be able to download our free, secure SmartHub app from the Apple or Google Play stores.

WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH SMARTHUB



Analyze Your Usage

View and compare your usage daily with previous time periods. Enhanced features including weather data allow you to be more aware than ever of how your daily activities can change your electricity consumption.



Pay Your Bill and Manage Auto-Pay

- Credit/Debit Cards
- Recurring Bank Draft or Recurring Credit Card



View and Compare

View copies of your current and past bills while adding weather analysis and daily usage comparisons.



Contact Us

Easily contact McLeod Co-op with billing questions, service issues, or other requests.

ANNUAL MEETING REMINDER

Join us at the Annual Meeting of the Members of McLeod Co-op Power on Tuesday, July 13 at the Hutchinson Event Center.

9:00 a.m. Registration
10:00 a.m. Meeting Called to Order

- Members are asked to RSVP for the meeting by calling (320) 864-3148 or toll free (800) 494-6272. RSVPs will also be accepted by email at mcpainfo@mcleodcoop.com.
- All members present at the Annual Meeting will receive a \$10 electric bill credit.
- Door Prizes include an electric EGO lawn mower, a STIHL electric leaf blower, and a STIHL electric lawn trimmer
- Grab and Go lunches will be provided following the meeting, catered by Chef Craig.

Important Note: Meal tickets are not needed or provided this year. An RSVP is appreciated instead.

DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

Members in Districts 4, 5, and 6 have the opportunity to vote for a director to represent their respective district.

Mailed ballots must be received in our office by 4:00 p.m. on July 12. If you prefer, you can bring your ballot with you to the Annual Meeting.



VIEW THE ANNUAL REPORT AT:
www.mcleodcoop.com/about/co-op-info/

GENERATOR
PROMOTION

02

ASK THE EXPERT: SAVE
ENERGY THIS SUMMER

03

UPDATE: MCLEOD CO-OP POWER OFFICE HOURS

After a temporary adjustment due to the COVID-19 pandemic, McLeod Co-op Power has returned to standard office hours from 8 am to 4 pm, Monday through Friday.

LATE FEES AND COLLECTIONS TO RESUME

McLeod Co-op Power will be resuming its charges for late payments and collections services beginning on August 1, 2021. As a reminder, payments must be received by the 28th of the month to avoid late payment charges. Members are encouraged to contact our billing office if payment arrangements are needed.



CEO MESSAGE

There is no doubt summer has arrived, bringing a heat wave earlier than most of us expected. When I turned on my air conditioner for the first time in early June, I knew it was just too soon.

You are already hearing stories about the hot weather putting stress on the electrical grid here in Minnesota and across the nation. During the recent extreme heat our wholesale power supplier, Great River Energy, called on our load reduction programs (aka demand response) to help reduce the stress on the system.

There are over 200,000 residents served by Great River Energy that participate in demand response programs. These members allow their air conditioners, water heaters, or other loads to be cycled or controlled for a period of time on high-demand days. Because of this, Great River Energy can reduce its peak load by 15%. Members who enroll in our demand response programs receive a credit or reduced rate on their bill. If you are interested in being a part of these programs, give us a call at (800) 494-6272. Of course, information can also be found on our website at www.mcleodcoop.com/services/off-peak-programs/.

When the electrical system starts to get stressed, there is another aspect that starts to respond, price. Much like we saw prices increasing in the wholesale electricity markets during the polar vortex that impacted Texas earlier in the year, prices can also rise during unexpected heatwaves. We look to Great River Energy to help manage these price changes by balancing their purchases and sales into the market with their generation fleet and



CEO RON MEIER

demand response programs. In the end, Great River Energy is doing everything they can to get the best pricing to their members while delivering safe and reliable power to our area so that we can deliver it to your homes.

On another note, if you haven't heard already, our Annual Meeting is scheduled for July 13. We are going to be at the Hutchinson Event Center again. It will be my second meeting as your CEO, and I am looking forward to reflecting on my first year at the Cooperative while celebrating all the good work of your employees during the trying year of 2020. We ask that you RSVP for the meeting so we can better prepare, but if you forget, we will have some extra food just in case.

As we move into the future, there are going to be events that challenge us, as there always has. Our employees and our partners are always planning and preparing for the challenges. It got hot early this year, but we handled it. Let's see what is next.

RIP L.



McLeod Cooperative Power will be at FarmFest 2021. Don't miss your chance to win EGO electric lawn care equipment!

JUNE 2021 BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of McLeod Cooperative Power Association was held on June 22, 2021, at McLeod Co-op headquarters. All nine board members, the attorney, CEO Ron Meier, and department managers participated in the meeting.

Highlights of the meeting included:

- The outage report for May 2021 was reviewed with a total of 53 outages, affecting 223 consumers.
- The line crew changed out 26 reject poles in May. Crews also continued to perform substation checks, yard lights, and transformer change-outs.
- Line crews completed pole top and bucket rescue training on May 19.
- Star Energy and the engineering staff are finalizing the new 4-year work plan, which includes the Bell Substation that will be rebuilt.
- A motion was carried to approve the minor change to office hours on Policy 3-1 Schedule of Charges being 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Monday-Friday).
- It was reported that Adolfson & Peterson will be conducting the 10-month walk-through of the new facility on July 1.
- IT Manager, Eric Sell, reported that the Co-op is working with a vendor to add another layer of cybersecurity to prevent malicious interactions with websites and other internet communications.
- SmartHub live date is scheduled for July 12. The IT and Billing Department have been busing with the administrative set-up. Testing will continue in the final weeks to ensure the payment gateways are fully integrated.
- Finance Manager, Steph Jakel, presented the Operating Statement and Balance Sheet for May 2021 for review.

Visit McLeod Co-op Power, along with other Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, at Farmfest 2021 and enter for a chance to win a grand prize!

FARMFEST 2021 • AUGUST 3 - 5 • REDWOOD FALLS, MN

Bring this coupon to Booth #2301.

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
PHONE: _____
EMAIL ADDRESS: _____
You must be a member of one of the participating electric cooperatives to win.



NO POWER?
NO WORRIES

Protect your home and family from the expense and inconvenience caused by power outages.

LIMITED TIME OFFER:
Purchase a Briggs and Stratton Automatic Generator from McLeod Co-op Power by August 31, 2021, and we'll include the 1st year's annual maintenance at no cost (valued at \$200).

Call (800) 494-6272 for more info!



COOL DOWN WITH DEALS ON
NEW SMART THERMOSTATS

Smart thermostats may only make small adjustments, but they'll result in large savings on your utility bill. And now for a limited time, you can take advantage of these promotions:



Google: July 1 - 7
• \$50 off Nest Learning Thermostat
• \$30 off Nest Thermostat



ecobee: July 6-30
• \$50 off SmartThermostat with voice control



Emerson: July 6-August 17
• \$30 off Sensi™ Classic
• \$20 off Sensi™ Touch



SHOP THIS OFFER AT
energywisemnstore.com/summer

Offers available from July 1 through August 17, 2021. See product pages for details. No coupon code necessary. While supplies last.

SAFETY FIRST: DO NOT REMOVE YOUR METER WITHOUT CO-OP ASSISTANCE

Electricians and/or members are not authorized to pull an electric meter to perform work on a service.

Electrical safety is a primary concern for McLeod Co-op Power. Removing or adjusting electrical equipment carries the potential to harm yourself and others. In attempt to prevent these risks, we stress the importance of never cutting the seal, tampering with, or removing a meter for any reason without the assistance from the Co-op.

Our policy requires a trained co-op employee, using the proper protective equipment, to pull and reinstall any energized meter. McLeod Co-op Power provides this service during regular business hours for a fee of \$85. A notice of two business days is requested, so coordinate your work needs with our team in advance by calling (800) 494-6272 during business hours (Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.).

WARNING: If an electrician or member does pull an electric meter to disconnect a service, significantly higher fees will incur. Disconnection or tampering of a meter sends a power outage alarm to the co-op. If a line crew responds to the outage, the member will be billed at the applicable line crew service call rate of \$310 during business hours, \$465 on evenings or Saturdays, and \$620 on a Sunday or holiday.

Your cooperation is appreciated. Our only goal is to protect you, your neighbors and our line workers from possible injury.



ASK AN EXPERT: HOW TO SAVE ENERGY THIS SUMMER

Most people expect higher energy costs in the summer. We crank up the air conditioning; the kids are home from school playing video games and creating extra loads of laundry full of bathing suits, beach towels, and muddy clothes. Warm weather comes with a price but, with a little preparation, you can manage your energy use wisely and cut down on your bill. This month we asked McLeod Co-op Power’s Energy Management Specialist, Justin Kohls, to share his best tips for saving energy this summer.

Check Your Air Conditioning

Your air conditioner requires regular maintenance to function efficiently throughout its years of service. Neglecting necessary maintenance ensures poor performance and unnecessarily high energy use. Checking the coils, fins, evaporative cooler, and heat pump may require the services of a professional.

Replace Your Air Filter

Replacing your air filter is one of the easiest and most effective things you can do to make sure that your A/C runs smoothly and efficiently. Clogged, dirty filters block normal airflow and reduce your air conditioner’s ability to absorb heat.

Use Your Thermostat Wisely

Set your thermostat as high as comfortably possible in the summer, ideally 78°F or higher. Every degree of extra cooling will increase energy usage six to eight percent. Keep your house warmer than normal when your family is away, and lower the temperature only when people are at home.

Avoid the Oven

Cooking with a conventional oven can add unwanted heat to your house, forcing your A/C to work harder. Do more of your cooking with a microwave or slow cooker to keep the kitchen cool. Better yet, use the summer heat as an excuse to fire up the backyard grill.

If You Aren’t Using It, Unplug It

From your computer to your toaster, all electronics generate heat. Even if it’s switched off, just being plugged in generates a small amount of heat in the wiring. Too keep things cool, unplug any electronics you’re not using. It’s not much per device, but add up all the gizmos in your home, and it can make a few degrees difference.

Seal Your Home

Insulation isn’t just for the cold winter months. Preventing air leaks is one of the best ways to keep warm air out and cool air in. Simple caulking and weather-stripping can save up to 30 percent on heating and cooling costs.

Wash with Cold or Warm Water

Avoid using hot water whenever possible. Because 90% of the energy used by your washing machine goes toward heating the water, doing your laundry on either the cold or the warm cycle will save you a tremendous amount of electricity.

“Energy savings isn’t just a summertime activity. Many of these tips will save you money all year long. Air stripping, insulated curtains, and intelligent thermostat usage will keep your home cool in the summer and warm in the winter. Creating smart energy habits will reduce waste, improve efficiency, and save you money on your energy bill year round,” Justin shared. “In addition to these simple adjustments, McLeod Co-op Power offers a variety of energy saving programs to help you manage your energy use and help keep electric costs low.”

Visit our website or call us at (800) 494-6272 to talk to one of our energy management specialists to learn about programs and rebates available through McLeod Co-op for energy efficiency improvements.

PEOPLE BEHIND YOUR POWER

**BRAD HUNDT
LINE WORKER**

Brad has been serving McLeod Co-op Power in the line department for 12 years and knows that safety is a huge factor in his job that requires thought and communication. Brad works safe everyday for his family and to be able to do the things he enjoys.

The best safety advice he’s been given is, “Take the extra time to do it safe.”



Photo Credit: Jim Jordahl

HOT WATER SAVINGS!

If your monthly utility bills have got you in hot water, McLeod Co-op Power can save members money on monthly electrical bills with Stored Water Heating and Peak Shave Water Heating.



By finding ways for members to use inexpensive off-peak electricity, you save money on your bills and we lower our wholesale power costs.

STORED WATER HEATING

A stored water heating system heats water every night when members use less electricity and wholesale energy costs are lower, then stores enough hot water for use during the day. Members pay a reduced energy rate for participating in the program and rebates for enrollment are available. You must have an 100+ gallon water heater or 80 gallon water heater with a mixing valve in order to participate. A Marathon Water Heater, available through McLeod Co-op, is a great high efficiency water heater to pair with the Stored Water Heating Program.

PEAK SHAVE WATER HEATING

The Peak Shave Water Heating Program is designed to reduce demand on the electrical system on days of high demand and peak pricing (typically the hottest or coldest days of each month) or in the case of a system emergency. By allowing McLeod to control your water heater during these peak periods you ultimately help keep our retail energy rates low. Water heaters enrolled on this program are only controlled on peak days. Members receive a credit of \$5.00 per month to be on the Peak Shave Water Heating Program. You must have a 80 gallon or larger water heater that is at least 90% efficient to qualify for the rebate.

LEARN MORE
(800) 494-6272
www.mcleodcoop.com

CHECK OUT OUR 2021 REBATES FOR EVEN MORE SAVINGS!

EQUIPMENT	REBATE*
Quality Installed Air Source Heat Pump	8.2-8.99 HSPF \$400 ≥ 9.0 HSPF \$1,000
Ground Source Heat Pump	\$400 / ton
Storage Space Heating	\$50 per kW
Furnace ECM	\$50
Heat Pump Water Heater	\$500 (50 gallon minimum)
Storage Water Heating Program Enrollment	\$400 (new, conversion, or retrofit)
Pool Pump VSD	\$200
Pool ASHP	\$400
Electric Vehicle Charger	\$500
EnergyStar Ductless ASHP	\$300
EnergyStar Refrigerator/Freezer	\$25
EnergyStar Clothes Dryer	\$25
EnergyStar Dehumidifier	\$25
EnergyStar Yard Light	\$60
Wifi Thermostat	\$25

DON'T MISS OUR SUMMER PROMOTIONS!

+ Visit the McLeod Co-op website for extra incentives on Air Source Heat Pumps, AC Tune Ups, and more!

USPS 2220
PERIODICALS
POSTAGE PAID
HUTCHINSON, MN

SUPPORTING THE FUTURE: SCHOLARSHIP WINNER ANNOUNCED

McLeod Co-op Power is excited and honored to award our \$500 Lineworker Scholarship to Dylan Richards.

Dylan is the son of members Jesse and Stacy Richards, and graduated from Glencoe Silver Lake High School in June. He will be attending Minnesota State Community and Technical College in Wadena in the fall. We wish Dylan the best as he completes the Electrical Lineworker Technology program.

For those considering a career as an electrical lineworker, the next round of scholarship applications will be due next April 2021.

Learn more at:
<https://www.mcleodcoop.com/about/youth-programs/>



“My uncle sparked my interest and after participating in a ride along, the job feels like a good fit for me” shared Dylan about becoming a lineworker.



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WWW.MCLEODCOOP.COM

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